(e) whether Bureau of Industrial Finance and Reconstruction has approved the report; and

(f) if so, the details therelf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The Government has taken a decision to close Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI), Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Lid. (HFC) and Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd. (PPCL) as they were not found techno-economically viable.

(b) to (d) Proposals for revival of Barauni and Durgapur units of HFC; Gorakhpur and Sindri units of FCI have been received from these companies for setting up brown field gas based fertilizers plants at the existing sites. In the case of Haldia unit of HFC, Shriram EPC had submitted a proposal for setting up a coke oven complex including production of fertilizers. Action has also been initiated to explore the possibility of reviving the Amjhore unit of PPCL by mining and selling the pyrites available at the unit direct as fertilizers. The revivals of these units is dependent on the tech no-economic viability of the proposals.

(e) and (f) In the case of FCI, Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has forwarded its opinion to close the company to the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and in respect of PPCL to the Hon'ble High Court of Patna for further action. The hearing of BIFR was held on 29.11.2005 in respect of HFC and as per directions of the Board, the action has already been initiated to prepare the revival schemes for the closed units of the company and the finalisation of these schemes will depend on the techno-economic viability of the proposals.

Secondary freight to fertilizers

594. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to grant secondary freight to all fertilizers including urea; and

(b) if so, by when a decision will be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND EERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to(b) While secondary freight

is already paid as part of the equated freight to indigenous urea manufacturing units, it is in-built in the rates of concession payable under the Concession Scheme for decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers.

Direct distribution of fertilizers subsidy to farmers

595. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Alagh Committee has recommended to start a pilot project for direct distribution of fertilizer subsidy to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;'

(c) whether the recommendation has been accepted;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (b) Working Group headed by Dr. YK. Alagh has *inter alia* recommended that a scheme for disbursal of subsidy directly to farmers in three selected districts where reliable land records are available may be formulated on an experimental basis.

(c) to (e) The recommendations of the Working Group are under examination of the Government.

Competition in wheat import

†596. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to import wheat in view of its shortage and its high price in the country;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.